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# THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

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*Chairman of the National Committee of the Red Cross Nursing Service*

## THE SURGEON GENERAL CALLS FOR 1000 NURSES A WEEK

We reported in the August JOURNAL an average enrollment, through the Red Cross Department of Nursing, of 1000 nurses monthly. Now in view of recent activities in France, the call has come to enroll for army service 1000 nurses a week, for a period of eight weeks. This call from the Surgeon General's office is to keep pace with the increasing needs of our military force and maintain the proper proportion between the Nurse Corps and the Army. From August 1st to August 12th the papers of 900 nurses went to the office of the Surgeon General. It seems a large number, but it is not 1000 a week.

The returns of the enrollment campaign are now coming in. The total allotment of nurses to be secured in the United States was 27,000, and approximately half of this number were assigned to duty by August 1 of this year, leaving something over 13,000 to be secured between now and January 1, 1919. Many of the Divisions have already enrolled more than half their allotment and in the majority of the Divisions there would have been no difficulty in securing the required number in the time given.

It has been difficult to convince the nurses of the country that there was an overwhelming need for them when it was generally known that large groups of nurses were mobilized in New York awaiting their sailings to France. When we realize that our troops have been sent to France at the rate of 300,000 a month, the difficulty in securing transportation for nurses becomes evident. Another explanation is that in many cases the male personnel was sent on transports and ships where it was difficult to secure suitable accommodations for nurses, but it was important to have them mobilized and available whenever transportation facilities could be secured. It is expected that from now on, transportation will be secured for large numbers of nurses with an increasing possibility of service abroad.

The vast increase in the size of the army, the successful transfer of nearly a million and a half men overseas, and the activity of that army at the Front make it of vital importance to send, with all possible haste, the quota of nurses needed to care for the sick and wounded on the other side. That there is a shortage of nurses in France in some of the military hospitals is clearly shown by the letters now being received at Red Cross Headquarters, and we feel sure that when this fact is brought home to the nurses of the country they will not fail to respond.

If there were only three thousand training schools in this country, and in all probability there are more, and each training school were to give three nurses from its present graduating class within the next two weeks, nine thousand nurses would be available.

The following list of allotments, assignment, number still due, and percentages will be interesting to the JOURNAL readers and may help to stimulate interest in those Divisions falling behind in their quotas:

ASSIGNMENTS

| Divisions.         | First Allotment. | Assignments to August 1. | Allotment Still Due. | Percentage Obtained. |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Central .....      | 3940             | 2311                     | 1629                 | 58%                  |
| Atlantic .....     | 5708             | 2600                     | 3108                 | 45%                  |
| Gulf .....         | 864              | 324                      | 540                  | 37%                  |
| Lake .....         | 2748             | 1205                     | 1543                 | 43%                  |
| Mountain .....     | 264              | 221                      | 43                   | 83%                  |
| New England .....  | 3318             | 1360                     | 1958                 | 41%                  |
| Northern .....     | 1165             | 598                      | 567                  | 50%                  |
| Northwestern ..... | 641              | 386                      | 255                  | 60%                  |
| Pacific .....      | 1036             | 899                      | 187                  | 87%                  |
| Pennsylvania ..... | 2154             | 1302                     | 852                  | 60%                  |
| Potomac .....      | 1366             | 764                      | 602                  | 56%                  |
| Southern .....     | 1371             | 382                      | 989                  | 28%                  |
| Southwestern ..... | 2425             | 995                      | 1430                 | 41%                  |

RECENT APPOINTMENTS.—Mary S. Gardner, director of the Bureau of Public Health Nursing of the American Red Cross, has been temporarily relieved from her duties at headquarters to take charge of a special group of sixteen nurses to be sent to Italy for public health and tuberculosis work in that country. She will sail early in September to join the Red Cross Commission already there and will be absent about eight months. During her absence, Miss Gardner's place will be filled by Ella Phillips Crandall, executive secretary of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. We are greatly indebted to that organization for releasing Miss Crandall for that position at this time. It is planned to organize this work by dividing Italy into fourteen sections, each presided over by one nurse of this group. They will instruct and organize the lay women and trained nurses of Italy in this important phase of community welfare, and will carry on a public health campaign in all parts of that country.

With the development of the American Red Cross Hospitals in England and the assignment to duty there of a large number of nurses, it has been necessary to make some changes in the original assignments. Among them is the release of Carrie M. Hall, of Boston,

who sailed for France May 6, 1917, as the chief nurse of the Peter Bent Brigham Base Hospital Unit No. 5. She is now in England as chief nurse and representative of this department of the Red Cross in that country.

#### RED CROSS NOTES

BY CLARA D. NOYES, R.N.

#### PASSPORT RULING RESCINDED

The ruling prohibiting the granting of passports to nurses and lay-workers who had near relatives in the United States Army has been modified by order of the Chief of Staff General Peyton C. March. In the future, assignment to France directly under the Red Cross will be permitted to women who have brothers in the service. One clause of this ruling states that if a nurse marries an officer or soldier in the A. E. F. after her arrival, she will automatically be sent back to the United States by the organization in which she is serving. The organization sending women personnel to France is made responsible for returning individuals to America in case of violation of the rules.

*Increase in Allowance.*—Nurses throughout the country will be deeply interested in the passage of the bill which allows an increase of \$10.00 over the basic pay of members of the Army Nurse Corps. For example, nurses in the future will receive \$60.00 for service in the United States and \$70.00 for overseas duty. The bill did not become effective in the form in which it was presented. The Chief Nurses did not receive the desired increase, but we understand that steps are being taken to correct this condition through an amendment which has been presented. The terms of this, however, we are not in a position to state.

We understand that the War Department is about to issue a regulation making the use of the out-door uniform compulsory upon the completion of three months' service for all nurses assigned to duty in this country. If this regulation becomes effective, the Red Cross, in all probability, will no longer supply the nurses after mobilization in New York with out-door uniforms. They will, however, continue to give the extraordinary equipment which is required for overseas duty. The plans are not sufficiently perfected to give in detail now, but it is hoped to have them ready for publication next month.

*Hospitals under the Federal Public Health Service.*—The Surgeon General of the Federal Public Health Service has recently requested the Red Cross to assume the responsibility of supplying nurses for the hospitals under the auspices of this department, such as the Marine

Hospitals, the hospital at Nitro, West Virginia, which has been established to care for the munition workers of that place, and other special hospitals that are constantly developing under this service. He has signified his willingness to utilize for the service nurses who may be slightly below the physical requirements for the Army or Navy or who may be slightly above the maximum age limit, or who may be married and whose husbands are in the service. This decision of the Surgeon General will make it possible to assign large numbers of nurses who have not qualified for the Army and Navy. Nurses accepting this assignment are rendering a definite patriotic service to our country at this time. The Marine hospitals are caring for large numbers of soldiers for the Bureau of the War Risk Insurance. The hospital at Nitro is caring for men and women who are working in the munition plant at this point. Inasmuch as this is the case, we trust that the nurses will accept the service with the same spirit of devotion as they have that under the Army and Navy. We have already assigned to the hospital at Nitro thirty-two nurses, to the Marine hospitals, nine, and the Pellagra hospitals, two. Nurses wear the regulation white uniform, as prescribed in circular A. R. C. No. 702 and are issued the Red Cross caps. In order that the service may be stable and efficient, the assignment is for not less than six months. An effort is being made to enroll all nurses who are already on duty at the Marine Hospitals in order to standardize the service.

*The Rumanian Unit.*—The unit of eleven nurses sent to Rumania last August reached England on its return journey, during the month of May. The majority of the nurses remained in England and France to continue work under the auspices of the Red Cross. The German government ordered all foreigners to leave Rumania and there was no course for the Commission to follow except compliance.

*The Italian Unit.*—A unit under the direction of Katherine C. deLong, who had been for a number of years the nurse in charge of the residence at the Bellevue Hospital for Nurses, consisting of the following personnel was sent to Italy during the spring and early summer. The majority of these nurses speak Italian. The purpose of this unit is to open a teaching center in Milan where the Italian women may come for classes of all kinds, and to render such social and public health service as may develop under the auspices of the Commission: Katherine C. deLong (Chief Nurse), Loretta Cavanaugh, Rose Gondolfo, Mrs. Charlotte Heilman, Elsie MacDonald, Anna Scanlon, Valerie Rittenhouse, Agnes G. Von Kurowsky, Della DeGraw, Ruth Brooks, Mabel Fletcher, Florence C. Hill, Anne Larkin, Veta B. Markley, Caroline Sparrow, May Warner. Sara E. Shaw is in charge of all nurses in Italy.